

## Tour Report Iberian Lynx Quest 18 – 25 January 2026

Iberian lynx



Sardinian warbler



Spoonbill



Red fox



Compiled by John Muddeman

The population of Iberian lynx is growing rapidly, yet so is its distribution, meaning that any sighting remains special—perhaps even more so when it involves animals inhabiting one of the two last pockets where the species was close to extinction just a couple of decades ago: Doñana and the Andújar mountains. The abundance of birdlife at the former wetland, adjacent heathy habitats and the difference to the birds in the mountains of the Sierra Morena, in combination with a wide range of mammals present at the latter, means that together they continue to make a superb tour.

The weather in January 2026 was relatively wet and cool running up to, during, and also after the tour, meaning that Doñana was looking splendid, with plenty of water in the streams and lakes, partially flooded rice fields and *marisma*, and with the verdant green grass that appears during the winter growing season here. Access to some areas was limited by the state of the tracks. Andújar was similarly green, with verdant moss and lichen cover on the rocks and even with a few of the very early flowers, such as rosemary and winter flowering dwarf daffodils, out in force. This also helps us to see lynx in Andújar, where for much of the year, vegetation is parched and dry, helping the lynx blend into their environment with ease and the usually greater distance of the sightings means that they are present, but remain unfound.

So, did we see one? Read on!

## Sunday 18 January 2026

### Day 1:

Flight from London to Seville

*Clear, dry and cool, with a lovely sunset.*

The group flight arrived a little earlier than expected and despite one person less than foreseen, we were soon away from Seville Airport after sunset, with a colourful glow in the near crystal clear skies accompanying part of the journey as we headed first west and then south to El Rocío, our base for the next four nights.

After bouncing our way into the town down deep water-filled ‘potholes’ and quickly checking in, we headed off for our first very tasty dinner. Lisa even managed to find the ‘prize’ in the “*roscón de Reyes*” we had for dessert; she didn’t even have to pay for it, which would have been truly traditional!

We headed to bed for a well-earned rest in the recently refurbished and very comfortable hotel, with the excitement of things to come!

## Monday 19 January 2026

### Day 2:

Doñana northern marshes with Doñana Nature, then the edge of the National Park late afternoon.

*A clear, chilly start, with some ground frost and heavy dew, thin, high cloud for several hours until mid-afternoon, then very fine and sunny until sunset.*

With breakfast from 7 a.m. onwards, we ate at different times, but were all ready spot on time at 8 a.m. to leave with our local guide in their 4x4 vehicle. After a little rearranging of several vehicles to fit all the other visitors in more comfortably as well, we were soon off and bumping down the rather bumpy sand tracks, including plenty of large puddles and pools after plenty of recent rain.

Mammals were firmly on our minds from the start, with a few small groups of red deer to kick off, notwithstanding the local horses and cattle as well, of course! We took a torturous route along a series of tracks criss-crossing the local scrub and woodland, with the planted stone pine dominating, good areas of regrowth with wild olive and cork oak trees plus abundant gum lentisc scrub where this had been thinned, while the still leafless narrow-leaved ash were already coming heavily into bud in areas with a touch more humidity.

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Indeed, it was in a small clump of latter, once we'd got out for a walk down the sandy tracks in some very open pasture of the privately-owned Coto del Rey ("King's Estate"), that a drumming lesser spotted woodpecker was heard, and though a bit distant, we were delighted to spot a couple of these diminutive woodpeckers chasing around in a territorial dispute for a few moments. The small flock of colourful European golden plovers feeding on the adjacent short grass, plus a mixed flock of Eurasian and spotless starlings flying behind them, were also enjoyed, while the first of numerous common stonechats and common chiffchaffs were also present. Large numbers of red deer brought our minds back towards mammals again, though three Eurasian hoopoes fluttering up in a butterfly-like dance again distracted me, though I also did my best to find a few tracks worth 'reading', including some excellent prints of Eurasian badger in the rather hard damp sand. Six fine fallow deer bucks stood under some trees watching us for a few moments before negotiating a wooden fence and splashing off through shallow waters into the depths of the National Park.

The drive out towards lunch included a couple of little detours in order to make it a little later than originally planned, but these were more than worth it! Half a dozen common cranes gave lovely views as they stalked through the salt scrub, while the first of dozens of great egrets were present on the seemingly innumerable pools which had formed in the *marisma*. A dumpy little owl moved from having its back to us to a more distant front-on pose, with a second peering out from the empty window of a small outhouse.

A few elegant little egrets, grumpy-looking grey herons, side-swiping Eurasian spoonbills, bobbing little grebes and even a western marsh harrier, ripping the breast feathers off a common woodpigeon half-submerged in shallow water appeared as we continued, plus yet more common stonechats along the fences. A few gulls feeding in the shallows were mostly black-headed, but a single 'forward-leaning' slender-billed was among them, a very uncommon species here in winter. More extensive pools held a large flock of greater flamingos and ducks, though these were largely against the light and hard to see at all well. The first detour brought us dozens of common moorhens, great egrets and grey herons, though while looking at these we also came across the first of about a dozen colourful purple swamphens, a surprise overwintering juvenile purple heron and another prize in the form of a very streaky squacco heron as well. With (flighty) lesser kestrels on the wires and a streaky zitting cisticola in the scrub as we continued, it was a good little detour! The second delivered a few more confusing kestrels, plus lots more greater flamingos and ducks, but again, these were against the light and with lunch calling, we made a beeline for the little visitors centre and picnic!

The drive back was more or less non-stop, though a brief pause allowed us to spot a griffon vulture circling alongside a much scarcer cinereous vulture, while an impressive flock of Mediterranean short-toed larks which rose up unexpectedly from beside the track at one point only gave us flight views, though these were quite extended and clearer than usual for a 'drive-by'! A couple more flyby Eurasian hoopoes made it five for the day!

We returned to the hotel with a couple of hours to spare pottering around and/or having a siesta, before we headed out at 1630h for a couple of hours watching at a spot on the edge of the National Park in hopes a cat would walk by... Unfortunately, it was one of those evenings when large numbers of horse riders and horse-and-trap riders were out exercising their animals, plus people in the town were celebrating something with occasional airbomb fireworks being sent up, making it much less peaceful than hoped, though a good selection of small birds seen included black redstarts, Sardinian warblers, long-tailed tits (of the swarthy local race) and, as we returned, a surprisingly large flock of common waxbills, apparently going to roost in dwarf fan palms, of most note.

Dinner was taken at 8 p.m., with a call-over of the list afterwards revealing that we'd actually recorded over 70 bird species, 3 mammals, one butterfly and even one dragonfly as a group!

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Tuesday 20 January 2026

**Day 3:**

Villamanrique de la Condesa area + Doñana N marshes; evening drive La Rocina

*A lovely sunny day, despite a band of high thin cloud for a few hours midday. Fresh, though up to 14°C mid-afternoon.*

With two of the group staying behind, John, Colin and I headed out in the chilly pre-dawn glimmer again at 8 a.m., this time heading round towards the woodlands and heathy areas to the N of 'Doñana'. A pair of huge common ravens adorned the pylon top, while a hovering bird off to one side, a few kilometres ahead was a gorgeous black-winged kite, which quickly dropped onto a plump vole and then flew to a distant post to devour it as we watched with the scope. A great start! Several red kites, particularly numerous this year it seems, were also already on the wing and with a few perched common buzzards and Eurasian kestrels along the roadsides scanning the ground for their breakfasts, it was already lining up to be a good day for raptors!

With the of the sun's rays filtering through the trees as we reached our first proper destination, with a few patches of ground frost and widespread heavy dew, it was no great surprise to find that just a few European rabbits were out and these were curled into immobile balls to both conserve energy as well as exposing as much of their flanks to the sun as possible to get warm!

We spent a couple of hours scouring the open areas of heath and pine-dominated forest, moving in the vehicle to make transects plus the occasional stop and short walks on foot, in the hope of finding our quarry, though despite finding quite a few European rabbits in the end, none of their predators could be found! A few woodlarks and red-legged partridges were obviously worth a good look, and a detour to a small rural bar, complete with a log fire very welcome!

Lynx hour basically being over, despite another quick check of one of the sites 'just in case', we headed down towards the Doñana marshes for birding, with another black-winged kite in flight en route of most note. Vast areas of rather wet and muddy rice fields suddenly extended to the horizon in front of us as we dropped down from the woods, though we made a beeline for a large reservoir not far away instead, where after eventually finding a few gaps between the ever-taller tamarisks, we started to amass an impressive haul of unusual birds. This started with the first of three very mobile ferruginous ducks, then a sleepy female white-headed duck, four resting ruddy shelducks, half a dozen red-crested pochard, around 20 bobbing black-necked grebes and finally, a couple of pairs of endangered marbled ducks trying to hide under the tamarisks! And these were really the icing on the cake with hundreds of black-winged stilts, dozens of white storks and common pochard and hundreds of northern shoveler in addition.

Lunch was taken at some refurbished picnic tables on a nearby hilltop, where white storks were already occupying their nests almost at head height atop the wild olive trees, a barn swallow sang a few notes as it dashed around the adjacent building and a mixed 'pair' of booted eagle –one light morph and the other dark-circled overhead while a pair of common cranes flew past.

A young black-crowned night heron caught our attention as it flew around and then pitched down into some tamarisks in a deep channel, where a couple more were already hiding and another black-winged kite crowned a small roadside pole as we passed.

Working our way deep into the marsh was surprisingly quiet, but two pairs of marbled duck swam out of cover as we passed, requiring a pause and a few little groups of common cranes striding through a beautiful meadow smothered in wild chamomile flowers just off to one side was a lovely sight. A roosting western barn owl was pinned into the corner of a nestbox, itself nestling under an impressively large white stork nest, with a more colourful splash of colour afforded by a small flock of mostly male Spanish sparrows adorning a fence.

Three more barn owls were also found in the tamarisk trees as we cruised very slowly back along a raised track, just preceded by a fine male hen harrier cruising past and taking a swipe at a passing peregrine falcon heading in the opposite direction! Yet another surprise awaited as we returned, with two huge Caspian terns

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feeding along a huge drainage channel, just allowing us time to get out for a photo before they turned and headed back on their return run.

We returned as quickly as possible, hoping to pick up the other two party members present for a little drive near El Rocío, but as they were enjoying themselves in a gad around town anyway, we just went ourselves! This was only for about an hour in an area where Iberian lynx have occasionally been seen in recent years, though it's difficult given the large extent of low heathy vegetation, but some tree and scrub clearance meant that we did at least pick up a couple of groups of red deer and, on our way out, a lovely pinky-breasted Iberian grey shrike and a confiding pair of Thekla's larks feeding on the wide verge and giving excellent views to round off the wildlife sightings for the day!

John and I then proceeded to Seville airport in order to pick up Hazel, returning in time to meet the other half of the group at dinner just after 2030h and to be able to enjoy the famous 'sky bacon' dessert together!

**Wednesday 21 January 2026**

**Day 4:**

Villamanrique de la Condesa area, Isla Mayor, Entremuros, the FAO and early return.

*Light to moderate rain much of the day from before sunrise, but heavy at times p.m.; 7°C starts rising to c. 14°C. A light breeze increasing to strong winds p.m.*

Rather than heading west for a day's rest from 'lynxing', it seemed intelligent for us the opportunity to return to some of yesterday's sites, now with the full team on board and we headed out, and round, three of the main Iberian lynx watching sites to the N of the National Park, but which were also accessible following the wet conditions underfoot. As expected, to be honest, we found no cats, but neither was this particularly surprising given the weather and with very few rabbits visible either!

We finally moved on and headed down towards the marshes for a coffee and then to buy some more bread in Isla Mayor for our picnic lunch later, before diverting through the rice fields for a fine mix of birds. Numerous greater flamingos, glossy ibis, Eurasian spoonbills, great, little and western cattle egrets, lesser black-backed gulls and black-winged stilts populated the generally very wet and muddy rice fields, while a small group of calling Eurasian curlew flying past were much less frequent.

Starting to think of lunch, we crossed *Entremuros* to head down the same track as the day before. It was surprisingly quiet, but with light rain blowing on a stiff breeze, it was not really surprising, with bonuses of two groups of three marbled ducks each resting in the shelter of the bank as we passed, plus a well-hidden roosting barn owl and a flighty black-crowned night heron in the same line of tamarisks. Having followed another guide in his car down for quite a stretch, it was good to join forces to try and locate a few more owls which had been roosting nearby, since in addition to two western barn owls roosting in a box, a few short-eared owls were also spending the day in some tamarisks nearby, but despite our best efforts to get a scope on them, even at range, they were exceptionally flighty and we only saw one briefly perched and two, even more briefly, in flight.

With the weather now unpleasant as the wind increased, we pushed on hard towards lunch, though came rapidly to a halt when a surprise osprey was spotted standing on a telegraph pole clutching a fish in its talons, and a very brief adult male lesser kestrel clinging to a fence.

It was very wet and with heavy driving rain over lunch, only easing for a few moments as we returned to an also very wet El Rocío for a relaxed (and indoors!) remainder of the afternoon!

Call-over at 1930h was followed by a very tasty dinner, including a belated birthday candle for one member, for a relatively early finish.

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Thursday 22 January 2026

**Day 5:**

El Rocío lagoon, transfer to Andújar, p.m. La Lancha

*A lovely, calm, mostly cloudy and cool start, turning mild midday, but with wind as a front pushed in from SW, giving light rain showers late afternoon and heavy rain over dinner.*

The day started off with a very pleasant walk along the edge of the town to look at the birds on the El Rocío lagoon. A single great crested grebe showed that it was deeper than usual, while various northern pintail, including a couple of nicely close birds were resting on the lake, a small group of black-tailed godwits were feeding just a few metres away in the grass alongside a northern lapwing and a common sandpiper tail-dipped its way along the water's edge. A single zitting cisticola and a couple of meadow pipits were also sneaking through the grass, an elusive Sardinian warbler did its very best to hide in the adjacent trees and a very cryptic red-knobbed coot almost escaped us amongst the numerous Eurasian as they fed along the water's edge ahead. A little bittern calling from deep in the reedbed was clearly heard too, though there was no visible sign of it.

Once off the El Rocío sand, after refuelling and a decent clean of the outside of the truly filthy minibus, we could at least look out through the windows for most of the journey up to Andújar, enlivened en route by sightings of regular red kites and even three black-winged kites, the last of which hovered off to one side giving good views, while as we got out to have a coffee, a cloud of feral pigeons rising from an industrial building nearby alerted us to a fine pale morph booted eagle looking for lunch!

Picnic supplies secured in Jacaranda in near record time, we headed quickly up to our accommodation, where we checked in and rapidly organised lunch, taken in the warm shelter of John and Hazel's apartment, out of the cold and damp wind.

There was still no rain though, so with conditions ideal for watching, with clear, albeit a little dark conditions under thickening cloud, we headed out to the main site to search for Iberian lynx. Only a few watchers were about, though we also received information that one individual had been seen very briefly earlier, raising hopes. Scanning the steep rocky and scrubby hillsides revealed plenty of rabbits about, in addition to numerous scattered red deer, while after repeated scanning, we also came across a herd of fallow deer and, after moving location, a female and then a superb adult male Spanish ibex on a particularly steep area of hillside.

With some persistent light rain showers making it feel particularly chilly, we decided to head back about 30 minutes before sunset in order to check more ground as we went before it got too dark. And a good choice this was, with a group of observers clearly watching something from the track in an area of woodland... After advancing a little more and disembarking as quietly as possible from the van, we watched as a mother Iberian lynx, *Magarza*, and her well-grown cub lynx were jogging along a track almost at head height on the opposite slope of a small gully, appearing intermittently as they came out from behind bushes, before finally turning up the slope and disappearing into the trees.

This was a magic end to the day and clearly we all breathed a huge sigh of relief as well, having been searching for 4 full days in two different areas!

Friday 23 January 2026

**Day 6:**

El Encinarejo pre-breakfast; La Lancha + Jándula Dam; siesta, El Encinarejo

*Pleasant and chilly almost calm start with broken clouds, with increasing cloud and a few showers until heavy rain 1715h onwards*

Our pre-breakfast exit was slightly later than planned, but still after hot drinks in one of the apartments to kick the day off. A grey wagtail was tail bobbing on the track en route, plus another fed on rocks in the river, but otherwise it was rather quiet by the river except for an excellent Eurasian otter which fed openly

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downstream, emerging onto rocks numerous times before coming underneath us and having a shouting match with another under the cover of scrub! It then reappeared and headed off downstream, avoiding the photographers lined up along the bank as it went, before disappearing round the bend. Brilliant!

We headed back for a quite simple but tasty and filling breakfast, with cold hard-boiled eggs, hearty 'doorstop' slices of toast and delicious fresh orange juice and freshly-made coffee of most note!

Out again we made our way slowly towards La Lancha, stopping several times for views of an all too brief golden eagle, a couple of mistle thrushes, a lovely little owl, a single juvenile and then a pair of adult Spanish imperial eagles, plus a remarkable 'flotilla' of griffon and cinereous vultures passing overhead in their search for favourable wind currents and/or food!

We crossed with another guide and his group once again as they were leaving the site, though finally with a smile on their faces as they'd watched a big male lynx for some time, though it had apparently disappeared. So, we still followed his suggestion and headed to the end of the track where a Spanish group was watching and searching for it, though it wasn't until a fair while afterwards, and once they'd gone, that I refound it! This time it was walking down through the bushes not far away, before it walked out onto the same track that we were on, though across in front of us, round a bend on the pleated hillside, and then headed down the slope before working its way back up the other side. We moved round to where it had passed to see it again, enjoying great views as it strolled down the middle of a wide sandy track for several minutes before finally stepping gently over the end of a sharp bend on a ridge and out of sight, for good. Marvellous!

With some sun heating up the numerous rocks on the slopes it was impossible to find it again in the thermal imager, so shortly before 1 p.m. we continued on down to the impressive Jándula Dam, where apart from a golden eagle which passed over twice all too quickly and a lovely male blue rock thrush adorning a massive boulder, we took a quick look for bats roosting in a small tunnel, where though just five we represent, one of these was a superb greater mouse-eared.

Our picnic lunch was taken soon after at a slightly breezy, but sunny viewpoint with lovely views over the surroundings, and including a surprise visit of six Spanish ibex females and young very close by, though they vanished as quickly as they'd appeared!

After a quick session photographing the local winter-flowering plants, including *Narcissus fernandesii*, shrubby germander (*Teucrium fruticans*) and abundant wild rosemary, we drove slowly back to our accommodation, enjoying the warmth of the sun as we went, for a mid-afternoon siesta, but literally as we gathered in the minibus again to head back down to the river for a dusk session, so it started raining, a couple of hours earlier than forecast. This got more and more intense as we progressed, despite a tiny respite on arrival, but resumed in earnest and with water having just started to be released through the dam, possibly for hydro-electric power generation, it was clear that it was extremely unlikely that we would see either the otter or lynx under the conditions and we headed back!

While the group had a rest, I headed down to Andújar to refuel and buy the last of the outstanding foodstuffs we'd need for picnics for the last two lunches, arriving back with just enough time to change before meeting the rest of the group who were chatting while having a drink at the restaurant bar. It rained over most of dinner and occasionally afterwards, with the wind picking up as well, but we were naturally still in high spirits of course, after the day's observations!

**Saturday 24 January 2026**

**Day 7:**

Mirador del Peregrino, El Encinarejo, La Lancha, track towards Baños de la Encina

*Relatively clear under a thick pall of cloud, despite low cloud/fog further up the valley. Breaking a little later to clearer conditions, especially mid-afternoon. Generally cold/chilly.*

For our last full day and especially given a very poor weather forecast for Sunday morning virtually across

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the whole of Spain (!), we opted for an 8 a.m. breakfast and more leisurely start. Heading back down to the river again, perhaps for another sighting of otter, or even a stray lynx, we paused first at the Mirador del Peregrino, which was created for visitors to view down this side valley and straight across to the Santuario perched atop the hill across the main valley.

As the group went to enjoy the landscapes, scanning the steep rocky hillsides and crags with the thermal imager showed an interesting series of hotspots nearby, with luck being that three compact medium-sized shapes moving through the bushes were wild boar, with one half grown individuals and two smaller ones enjoyed by all in the scope as they worked their way quite quickly down the hillside before disappearing behind the nearest row of stone pines. The head and shoulders of a different adult lying down between some bushes could also be seen, while a little cluster of dots further up turned out to be a small herd of lovely Spanish ibex, with most easily visible, but one, lying on a rock ledge, showing just how well they blend into the landscape and could be overlooked.

Either there was a need for hydro-electric power still, or, more likely, orders had gone out to release water in the face of heavy rain forecast for the forthcoming week or so, with the river looking a bit like it was still in spate and we could quickly see that our thoughts of seeing otter again were pretty much trashed!

Certainly not to be outdone though, we switched tactics, with a good scan from a raised viewpoint revealing a few scattered red deer, and, after an amusing confusion, a European bison (yes, truly!) was indeed found, albeit an animal introduced for 'rewilding' (and tourism?) purposes.

Given the rather still conditions, we also set out to look for a few of the local birds as well. A couple of gorgeous, hyperactive and colourful common firecrests set the ball rolling, followed by a pair of flighty short-toed treecreepers and then a raucous Eurasian nuthatch, a touch paler than ours underneath, finished off round one. The abundant fruiting lentisc 'trees' provide small food parcels for a host of wintering birds here, including a fine flock of loudly calling hawfinches –much to the group's delight– which we located as we walked quietly ahead, while our first Eurasian greenfinches also showed briefly in flight. With Sardinian warbler and black redstart again by the river ahead, it was a fine opportunity to see a few more of the typical local birds of the area which had managed to elude us so far.

After a quick drink back at the bar of our accommodation, we were off again and back towards the main lynx-watching area, complete with a picnic since, despite a chill breeze in the higher parts, it was forecast to be largely dry. A few judicious stops were made en route, including for the first of three lovely little owls seen during the day, this one sheltering under a large western holm oak, though again I decided that we could do with a little walk along the main track in the main viewing area, so in the relative absence of other observers just here, it was an excellent quiet option. Indeed, there was a significant gathering of people ahead and it wasn't until we finally moved on and had spent a little time at one of the main viewpoints that we heard that Magarza and her cub had been seen earlier, though had disappeared down a bank.

Not to be outdone, we carried on and as luck would have it, just a few minutes later and with mobile coverage now restored, I was informed that she and her cub were again being seen, and I worked out that this time it was from just 100 m back from where we were standing! A brisk walk ensued, enabling us, in addition to four Spaniards and three French who I alerted and who did not even know of the earlier sighting, to first all get lovely views of Magarza as she sat on the verdant green verge of a sandy track surveying her surroundings, then to be joined by her cub and for both then to finally pitch down over the edge to disappear from view. Magic!

A picnic lunch (albeit a bit chilly) was once again enjoyed at the viewpoint ahead, which we shared with a large group of Danes, with tremendous views over the main reservoir snaking its way up through the steep-sided valley to the north, and on the flanks of which we could imagine generations of Iberian lynx living out their lives in the beautiful landscape.

We commenced our returned mid afternoon, with a surprise in the form of a large adult red fox in full winter coat at very close range and then at the fourth stop at a particular site for a pair of little owls I know of, but

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which still weren't present, we instead turned up a colourful female Iberian green woodpecker digging in the turf, presumably for a late ant lunch, giving us our first views of a perched bird, only for us to then find a second individual, also on the ground and quite a bit closer in full view, just for good measure!

With the cloud lifting, we continued on through a ridgetop covered in native species-rich woodland, with the mountain flank dropping away steeply below us and allowing stunning views over a vast vista, the snow-clad peaks of the Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas clearly visible, despite actually being over 100km to the east! Plenty of red deer were scattered around the upper edges of a lovely estate traversed by the track, but despite a good search of the slopes leading down to numerous artificial rabbit warrens, only large numbers of sheep could be found, so we started back in good light.

A few lynx scats were noted on the edge of the track as we progressed, though the recent rains meant that they were the only ones noted all week. Tracks and signs are all part of the experience, after all!

We arrived back with time to prepare for travels the following day and a last meeting for a drink and to go over the days species lists before another excellent dinner.

**Sunday 25 January 2026**

**Day 8:**

Santuario de Nuestra Señora de la Cabeza, El Encinarejo, picnic Los Pinos, transfer to Seville  
*Moderate to heavy rain breaking a little later, then intermittent en route to Seville. Windy.*

With Iberian lynx having been seen on three consecutive days, we certainly did not need to risk getting either soaked and/or cold on the last morning before returning, so despite heading to the Santuario for a cultural mini-interlude, where it was raining hard and shrouded by low cloud, after a short visit to the church followed by a warming drink in a nearby bar, we headed back down to El Encinarejo.

The rain had stopped, but not surprisingly, little was showing, perhaps also given surprising numbers of people wandering around looking for lynx or waiting, cameras in hand, on the banks of the river for an otter or two to show. We inwardly wished them luck and decided on exploiting the opportunity for a short walk up onto the slopes of the adjacent estate, though finding that another quite large group who were watching from the highest viewpoint had seen nothing special, we decided to return asap and prepare for the journey, as well as our final lunch and even with time to prepare a few sandwiches for those travelling back to the UK on the relatively late flight.

The journey went without a hitch, with just a very brief black-winged kite of special note on the way, despite more red kites than usual, again, and during a drinks break I topped-up on fuel meaning that after dropping off the bulk of the group at the airport, it was quickly on towards the centre of Seville where Liz and Lisa caught a taxi to their hotel and I dropped off the vehicle before I caught my transport home! I sincerely hope that you all had good homeward journeys!

Cover images by John Belchamber

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# Checklist for Iberian Lynx Quest



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
	<b>MAMMALS</b>								
1	European rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Vole sp.	<i>Cricetidae</i>		✓					
3	Schreiber's bent-winged bat	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>					✓		
4	Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentoni</i>					✓		
5	Greater mouse-eared bat	<i>Myotis myotis</i>					✓		
6	Fallow deer	<i>Dama dama</i>	✓			✓		✓	
7	Red deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Spanish ibex	<i>Capra pyrenaica</i>				✓	✓	✓	
9	Eurasian wild boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>						✓	
10	Iberian lynx	<i>Lynx pardinus</i>				✓	✓	✓	
11	Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>						✓	
12	Eurasian otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>					✓		
	<b>BIRDS</b>								
1	Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓		✓			
2	Egyptian goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	✓	✓				✓	
3	Common shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	✓	✓	✓				
4	Ruddy shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		✓	✓				
5	Northern shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
6	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓					
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Northern pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				✓			
9	Eurasian teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	✓			✓			
10	Marbled duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>		✓	✓				
11	Red-crested pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		✓					
12	Ferruginous duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		✓					

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13	White-headed duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>		✓					
14	Red-legged partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
15	Rock dove / Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓
16	Common wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
18	Common moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓	✓	✓				
19	Eurasian coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
20	Red-knobbed coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>				✓			
21	Western swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	✓						
22	Common crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	✓	✓	✓				
23	Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
24	Great crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristata</i>	✓	✓		✓			
25	Black-necked grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		✓					
26	Greater flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	✓		✓	✓			
27	Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓	✓		✓			
28	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	✓						
29	Northern lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
30	European golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
31	Eurasian curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			✓				
32	Black-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	✓	✓		✓			
33	Green sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			✓			✓	
34	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				✓			
35	Slender-billed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	✓						
36	Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓	✓				
37	Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			✓				✓
38	Caspian tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		✓	✓				
39	Black stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			✓				
40	White stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
41	Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	Glossy ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
43	Eurasian spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
44	Little bittern	<i>Ixobrychos minutus</i>					✓		
45	Black-crowned night heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		✓	✓				
46	Squacco heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	✓		✓				
47	Western cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			

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48	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
49	Purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	✓	✓					
50	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
51	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
52	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			✓				
53	Black-winged kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		✓		✓			✓
54	Griffon vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	
55	Cinereous vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	✓				✓	✓	
56	Booted eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>		✓		✓			
57	Spanish imperial eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>				✓	✓	✓	
58	Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>					✓	✓	
59	Eurasian sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	✓	✓					
60	Eurasian goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>					✓		
61	Western marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓	✓	✓				
62	Hen harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		✓	✓				
63	Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
64	Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
65	Western barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		✓	✓				
66	Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	✓					✓	
67	Short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>			✓				
68	Eurasian hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
69	Lesser spotted woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>	✓						
70	Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>						✓	
71	Iberian green woodpecker	<i>Picus sharpei</i>		✓		H	✓	✓	
72	Common kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Lesser kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	✓		✓				
74	Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓					
75	Iberian grey shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>		✓				✓	
76	Eurasian jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>					H		
77	Iberian magpie	<i>Cyanopica cooki</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
78	Eurasian magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Western jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓				✓	✓
80	Northern raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		
81	Eurasian blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓					✓	✓
82	Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓

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83	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		✓					
84	Eurasian skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓					
85	Thekla's lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>	✓	✓		✓			
86	Crested lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓		✓	✓			
87	Mediterranean short-toed lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	✓						
88	Eurasian crag martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
90	Western house martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
91	Cetti's warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	H	H		H		H	H
92	Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	✓						
93	Common chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
94	Zitting cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	✓	✓		✓			
95	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				H		✓	H
96	Sardinian warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Dartford warbler	<i>Curruca undata</i>				✓	✓	H	
98	Common firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>						✓	
99	Eurasian wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>							✓
100	Eurasian nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>						✓	
101	Common starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓					
102	Spotless starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				✓	H		✓
104	Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				✓	✓		✓
105	Common blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
106	European robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
107	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	✓						
108	Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Blue rock thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>					✓		
110	European stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
111	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
112	Spanish sparrow	<i>Passer hispanicus</i>		✓					
113	Dunnoek	<i>Prunella modularis</i>						H	
114	Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>					✓	✓	
115	White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
116	Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
117	Common waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	✓						

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118	Eurasian chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>						✓	H
120	European greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓		✓			✓	
121	European goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓
122	European serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓			✓	✓		
123	Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓	H				✓	
124	Rock bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				✓			✓
	<b>OTHER TAXA</b>								
1	Geniez's wall lizard	<i>Podarcis virescens</i>					✓		
2	Painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓	✓					
3	Common darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	✓						